

7th February 1924]

**Mr. J. A. SALDANHA** :—“ Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to call for information on this point ? ”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ To which point ? ”

**Mr. J. A. SALDANHA** :—“ To all the points. The information is required in connexion with the points that I am going to raise on the Irrigation Bill.”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ Clause (d) is somewhat consequential on the rest. But I shall have no objection to call for information regarding (a), (b) and (c).”

*Minor irrigation works in certain districts.*

**263 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI** : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of minor irrigation works reported upon and ready for construction if funds were available in each of the districts of South Arcot, Chingleput, North Arcot, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur ; and

(b) whether Government intend building any of these works in the year 1924–25 ?

**A.—** Apparently the hon. Member refers to the construction of new irrigation works as distinguished from improvements to existing irrigation works. There are no such works reported on and ready for construction, if funds were available, in the districts mentioned.

**Mr. M. RATNASWAMI** :—“ Are we to understand, Sir, that these districts are so fortunate that they do not require any manner of irrigation works ? ”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ The hon. Member will notice that the answer refers to ‘new irrigation works as distinguished from improvements to existing irrigation works’. It is not a fact that they are so fortunate as not to need any irrigation work, but no such schemes have been put forward, partly on account of financial reasons.”

**Mr. M. RATNASWAMI** :—“ May I know, Sir, whether those districts do not require at all any new minor irrigation works ? ”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ I think it is necessary to explain that it is major irrigation works that are really involved in the new construction. The function of the minor Irrigation Department is to maintain existing schemes.”

**Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR** :—“ And not to embark on works which are technically minor irrigation works ? ”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ I do not say that.”

**Mr. M. RATNASWAMI** :—“ Does the hon. the Law Member’s answer include all kinds of minor irrigation works, viz., those that are necessary to supplement major irrigation works and those which are independent of major irrigation works ? ”

**The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR** :—“ As I have already said, there are no such works reported on and ready for construction.”